



**SEKHUKHUNE**  
District Municipality

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**Office of the  
EXECUTIVE MAYOR**

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Date: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**Urgent Media Statement**

**RE: SDM BATTLES WATER CHALLENGES AND LOSSES LIFE.**

It is with a deep sense of sorrow that the Sekhukhune District Municipality mourns the death of a contractor who passed away last week Friday after falling into a pit while busy repairing a burst pipe line supplying water from Groblersdal to Motetema Township. Condolences are in order to the family, friends and colleagues of the late Willem Van der Linde, a worker sub-contracted by Riverside Construction Company.

The Motetema Township in Elias Motsoaledi has been hit by sporadic incidents of water shortages recently due to frequent breakdown of water infrastructure between our main source in Groblersdal and the township. Recently (Monday) His Worship Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Mogobo David Magabe visited the township (Motetema) to get first-hand information regarding the shortage of water from both the residents and the SDM staff working around the clock to fix the burst pipe.

As part of the short-term interventions, five (5) water tankers have been dispatched immediately to assist the struggling residents of the township with water. This is done whilst the job to fix the burst pipe is continuing. It is worth noting that a 28million rand

project linking Tafelkop passing through Motetema is currently under way as a long term solution towards water challenges in that area.

In order to put concrete expression towards dealing with the water shortage, Executive Mayor said “we call on our community of Motetema to remain calm and exercise restrained as this problem of water challenge is being dealt with. We are confident that even following the passing away of our contractor on side, the technicians who are still on side will resolve the problem very soon. And to show our seriousness regarding the matter, we have convened a meeting with all stakeholders in Motetema scheduled for Ramohlokola Secondary School, on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014, and the time is 16:00pm”.

Observing oxymoron now, His Worship Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality Cllr Mogobo David Magabe wants to share one of the sms he received from a member of the public residing in one section of Ga-Masemola and it reads thus:

“I would like to thank you for your efforts to solve our water problem. That is how responsible leaders always do, especially when interventions required. I have to give credit where it is due and please accept my gratitude for the stunning work you are doing for our communities. Thanks many a times my leader and keep on” Sepheu Lehlagare from Mashwanyaneng village in ward 29 of Makhuduthamaga.

Mashwaneng village like most of the section forming part of Ga-Masemola village was hard-hit by a heart-breaking shortage of water for a considerable period of time. And as we celebrate the 20 Years of Freedom, today residents are enjoying a consistent supply of clean and portable water. However, this was never easy to achieve because it followed a couple of years of engagements with community and intervention by government.

It is against the background of what Mr Lehlagare Sepheu wrote that ‘the Executive Mayor calls upon all members of the public irrespective of their positions to immortalize this glorious example by interacting and engaging robustly but peacefully with all councillors about challenges and government achievements in their area. We need to do this in the spirit of together moving South Africa forward’.

End.